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COUNCIL**

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MINISTERS OF HEALTH
LEEK RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Report

**for the Year ending
31st December, 1947**

By

H. KELSO WATSON

Medical Officer of Health

LEEK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

For the

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1947

By

H. KELSO WATSON,

Medical Officer of Health

SANITARY AND HOSPITALS COMMITTEE

Chairman : Councillor J. W. Evans.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor G. Shufflebotham.

Members : Councillors G. Baker, W. E. Battersby, J. Bennison, H. C. Brown, A. Buckley, T. W. Buxton, G. Chawner, W. Cooper, R. W. Critchlow, C. R. Critchlow, R. W. Evans, R. G. Grindon, W. Hambleton, F. Hargreaves, J. Harrison, R. Jackson, G. Jervis, G. W. Leese, J. A. Maynard, J. Needham, E. J. Oakes, J. Robinson, Mrs. G. Sigley, J. G. Stubbs and F. Turner.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health.

H. KELSO WATSON, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspector.

F. HEMINGWAY, M.S.I.A., Certified Food Inspector.

Additional Sanitary Inspector.

D. K. PEDLEY, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

Certified Food Inspector.

REPORT

The Leek Rural District extends over 72,623 acres. The main occupations are farming and mining. The population in 1947 was 15,960.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	72,623 acres.
Number of inhabited houses	4,704
Rateable Value	£58,339
Sum represented by penny rate	£235
Population	15,960
Number of persons per acre	.22

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	M	F	TOTAL
Legitimate	159	128	287
Illegitimate	5	8	13
	<hr/> 164	<hr/> 136	<hr/> 300

Birth rate per 1,000 of the Population--18.07

Stillbirths	M	F	TOTAL
Legitimate	5	1	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/> 5	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 6

Rate per 1,000 total births—20.01

Deaths (all ages)	M	F	TOTAL
	109	74	183

Death rate per 1,000 of the population—11.4

Deaths of Infants (Under 1 year)	M	F	TOTAL
Legitimate	6	4	10
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 10

Death rate per 1,000 live births—33.1

TUBERCULOSIS

The table below shows the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register, and figures for the two preceding years are given for comparison purposes.

	Pulmonary Tuberculosis			Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis			Total (Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary)		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1947	69	68	137	29	28	57	98	96	194
1946	75	65	140	29	33	62	104	98	202
1945	74	63	137	28	33	61	102	96	198

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The incidence of Infectious diseases in the Schools of the district during 1947 is as follows:—

JANUARY—Influenza, Scarlet Fever, Chicken Pox, Measles, Whooping Cough.

FEBRUARY—Chicken Pox.

MARCH—Scarlet Fever, Measles, Whooping Cough.

APRIL—Measles.

MAY—Scarlet Fever, Chicken Pox, Measles.

JUNE—Scarlet Fever, Measles, Chicken Pox, Whooping Cough

JULY—Measles.

AUGUST—

SEPTEMBER—Whooping Cough.

OCTOBER—Chicken Pox, Whooping Cough, Mumps, Scarlet Fever.

NOVEMBER—Chicken Pox, Whooping Cough.

DECEMBER—Chicken Pox, Whooping Cough, Mumps.

The figures below show the Incidence of Infectious Diseases in 1947 in comparison to those of the previous year:

	1947	1946
Measles	44	14
Whooping Cough	15	10
Diphtheria	—	2
Pneumonia	7	4
Scarlet Fever	13	14
Erysipelas	3	2
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	1
Dysentery	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	—
Para Typhoid Fever	—	1
Pneum. Meningitis	1	—
	—	—
Total Cases	86	49

Incidence of Infectious Diseases

Parishes	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	Acute Polio-myelitis	Pneum. Meningitis
Alstonefield	11								
Bagnall	4								
Bradnop		6							
Butterton									
Endon and Stanley	6				1				
Fawfieldhead									
Grindon									
Heathylee									
Heaton									
Hollinsclough							1		
Horton									
Ilam									
Leekfrith	2								
Longnor									
Longsdon				1					
Norton-in-the-Moors	16			1	9	1		1	
Onecote									
Quarnford	1	8		3		1		1	
Rushton	1	1		1	2				
Sheen									
Tittesworth	2								1
Warslow and Elkstones					1	1			
Wetton	1			1					
Total	44	15	—	7	13	3	1	2	1

Months of Occurrence

January				2	2	1			
February	2				1	1			1
March	2			1	2				
April	5	1		1			1		
May	4								
June	30	1			1				
July					4				
August		3						2	
September									
October	1			1					
November		6			1				
December		4		2	2	1			
Total	44	15	—	7	13	3	1	2	1

DIPHtheria IMMUNISATION

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1947									
Age at 31.12.47 i.e. Born in Year		Under 1 1947		1 1946	2 1945	3 1944	4 1943	5 to 9 1938-1942	10 to 14 1933-1937
Number Immunised		Nil		55	142	168	242	662	765
Estimated Mid-year child population 1947				Children under five 1289				Children 5-14 2183	

Table II
Leek Rural District

Cause of Death	All ages	Under 1	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Diphtheria									
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	3						1	2	
Non - Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1						1		
Influenza	1						1		
Cancer of Oesophagus or Uterus	3						2		1
Cancer of Stomach or Duodenum	6							4	2
Cancer of Breast	6							3	3
Cancer of all other Sites ...	16						1	6	9
Diabetes	2								2
Intra - cranial Vascular lesions	34	1					1	10	22
Heart Disease	53	1						10	42
Other Diseases of Circulatory System									
Bronchitis	7						1	1	5
Pneumonia	11	4							7
Other Respiratory Diseases	3							1	2
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)									
Appendicitis									
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	4						1		3
Nephritis	7							1	6
Puerperal Sepsis	0								
Other Maternal Causes ...	1						1		
Premature Birth	2	2							
Congenital Malformation and Disease	1	1							
Suicide	4						1	1	2
Road Traffic Accidents ...	2						2		
Other Violent Causes ...	2								2
All Other Causes	14	1						1	12
Totals	183	10					13	40	120

Table III
Causes of Death in Leek Rural District, 1947

Causes of Death	Males	Females
All Causes	109	74
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers		
Cerebro-Spinal Fever		
Scarlet Fever		
Whooping Cough		1
Diphtheria		
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	3	
Other forms of Tuberculosis		1
Syphilitic Diseases		1
Influenza		
Measles		
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis		
Acute Infencephalitis		
Cancer of buc. cav. and oesoph. uterus	1	
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	4	2
Cancer of Breast		6
Cancer of all other sites	8	8
Diabetes		1
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	20	13
Heart Disease	38	27
Other diseases of circulatory system ...	2	
Bronchitis	4	
Pneumonia	5	4
Other Respiratory diseases		
Ulcer of the Stomach or Duodenum ...	3	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	
Appendicitis		
Other digestive diseases		
Nephritis	3	3
Puerperal and post-abort. Sepsis		
Other maternal causes		1
Premature Birth	1	
Congenital malformation birth inj. infant dis.	1	2
Suicide	3	1
Road traffic accident	1	1
Other violent causes	1	
All other causes	10	1

Table IV

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain Infectious diseases in the Year 1947. Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 C. Bs. and Great Towns including London	148 smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25000 - 50000 1931 Census	London Adm. County
Births				
* Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population :—				
Live Births	20.5 ‡	23.3	22.2	22.7
Still Births	0.50‡	0.62	0.54	0.49
Deaths				
All Causes	12.0 ‡	13.0	11.9	12.8
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Influenza	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Measles	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01
Rates per 1,000 Live Births :—				
Deaths under one year of Age	41 ‡	47	36	37
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	5.8	8.0	3.7	4.8
* A dash (-) signifies that there were no deaths. ‡ Per 1,000 related births. ‡ Rates per 1,000 population.				
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population :—				
Notifications:—				
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05
Scarlet Fever	1.37	1.54	1.37	1.31
Whooping Cough	2.22	2.41	2.02	2.80
Diphtheria	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.14
Erysipelas	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.22
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Measles	9.41	9.13	9.58	5.29
Pneumonia	0.79	0.89	0.68	0.64
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live & Still)				
(a) Notifications:—				
Puerperal Fever	7.16	8.99	6.27	{ 1.21
Puerperal Pyrexia				{ 6.94‡
(b) Maternal Mortality in England and Wales:—				
No. 140 Abortion with Sepsis	No. 141 Abortion with- out Sepsis	No. 147 Puerperal Infections	Nos. 142-6 148-150 Other	
0.10	0.06	0.16	0.85	
Abortion:—Mortality per million women aged 15-45 in England and Wales:—				
No. 140 With Sepsis		No. 141 Without Sepsis		
9		5		

‡ Including Puerperal fever.

Sanitary inspection of the Area— Summary of Visits

HOUSING :

(A)	Inspection of Houses for defects ...	148	
(B)	Houses inspected under Hobhouse Survey	301	
(C)	Visits re Building Licences	452	
(D)	Requisitioning	3	
(E)	Overcrowding	2	
(F)	"Squatters"	19	
(G)	New Houses in Course of Erection	13	
(H)	Council's Housing Site—Endon ...	44	
			982
	Inspection of Premises for Nuisances	60	
	Visits re Food Supply	58	
	Drainage Inspections	153	
	New Drains Laid	21	
	Cowsheds and Dairies	108	
	Ice Cream Premises	27	
	Infectious Diseases	28	
	Visits re Water Supplies	157	
	Samples of Water taken	118	
	Refuse and Nightsoil Collection	118	
	Knackers' Yards	19	
	Petroleum Stores	38	
	Factories	31	
	Rat and Mice Infestations	62	
	Fumigations	28	
	Samples of Sewage Effluents taken	—	
	Public Conveniences	2	
	Conversions	22	
	Miscellaneous Visits	184	
			2216

NOTICES SERVED

	Informal Notices	115
	Statutory Notices	19
(a)	Number of Nuisances Remedied	29
(b)	Number of defective dwellings rendered fit following service of Statutory and informal notices	62

Water Supply, Sewerage and Scavenging

Parish	Number of Houses	(a)	(b)	(c)
		Number of Houses with Piped water Supply	Number of Houses on Sewerage System	Number of Houses from which Nightsoil is removed
Alstonefield	121			
Bagnall	290	200†		57
Bradnop	88			
Butterton	73			
Endon and Stanley	533	463†	273	93
Fawfieldhead	113			
Grindon	75			
Heathylee	81			
Heaton	102			
Hollinsclough	58			
Horton	282			36
Ilam	29			
Leekfrith	136			
Longnor	132	22*		
Longsdon	205	101†		20
Norton-in-the-Moors	1722	1497†	1031	647
Onecote	77			
Quarnford	83			
Rushton	185			
Sheen	89			
Tittesworth	40			
Warslow and Elkstones	117			
Wetton	73			
Total	4704	2283	1304	853

- (a) † Supplied by the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board
 * Supply gravitating from spring at Hollinsclough.
- (b) Three sewage disposal Works—one in the Parish of Endon and Stanley, and two in the Parish of Norton-in-the-Moors.
- (c) Scheme undertaken by direct labour as from September, 1947—previously carried out by contract.

NIGHTSOIL COLLECTION.

In September this year the Council took over the collection of nightsoil which previously had been undertaken by three private contractors covering the parishes of Bagnall, Endon and Stanley, Horton (part), Longsdon and Norton-in-the-Moors.

The Council purchased a Karrier vehicle which is manned by three men, comprising a driver and two mates, and it is gratifying to note that the area previously covered by the three private contractors is now efficiently worked by the one vehicle, giving a fortnightly service.

The number of complaints of non-collection of nightsoil have been most considerably reduced since the changeover. In fact the few complaints that have been received, have been from addresses from where the nightsoil had not been regularly collected previously, which addresses had not been recorded.

The Council has on order an additional vehicle and when this is delivered, the service will be extended to other parts of the area.

WATER SUPPLIES

It will be observed from the table on the previous page that approximately one half of the houses in the district are afforded with a piped water supply, the remainder depending mainly upon shallow and deep wells, boreholes and springs as sources of supply. In the extreme Eastern parishes the water supply is most inadequate and in many cases water has to be carried considerable distances.

In general the water supply has been satisfactory both in quantity and quality. During the year 59 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination and 59 samples for chemical analysis, the results being tabulated below.

	NUMBER OF SAMPLES TAKEN		RESULTS	
	For Bacteriological Examination	For Chemical Analysis	Fit	Unfit
Wells	15	15	1	14
Private Piped Supplies ...	14	14	2	12
Springs	23	23	4	19
*Boreholes	6	6	3	3
Streams	1	1	—	1
Total ...	59	59	10	49

The percentages of unfit samples appears to be unduly high, but this cannot be assumed to be a true representation of the area as the majority of the samples were not taken at random, but taken upon receipt of complaints by consumers who were suspicious of the appearance or palatability of their drinking water.

Upon receipt of the results of water samples from the Laboratory, copies of the reports are in every case transmitted to the consumer or person requesting the analysis, and advice given as to boiling, etc., when an unsatisfactory report is received.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

No new works of sewerage and sewage disposal were carried out during the year.

Hobhouse Report—Housing Survey

During the year a further 301 houses were inspected under the Housing Survey, making a total of 524 houses inspected since the survey commenced, and classified as follows:

CATEGORY	Year 1947	Total Number Ins- pected.
1—Satisfactory in all respects ...	66	117
„ 2—Minor defects	83	104
„ 3—Repairs or structural alterations	130	271
„ 4—Reconditioning — H. (R.W.) Acts	1	1
„ 5—Unfit	21	31
	301	524

Thirteen new cases of overcrowding were revealed during the year, making a total of 20 cases recorded since the survey commenced in October, 1946 : 2 cases in the parish of Bagnall, 1 case in the parish of Healthlee, 5 cases in the parish of Longnor, 11 cases in the parish of Norton-in-the-Moors, and 1 case in the parish of Bradnop. The latter case has since been alleviated.

The survey has chiefly been confined to the parish of Norton-in-the-Moors, though inspections have from time to time been made in other parts of the area.

Although every effort is being made to complete the survey at the earliest moment much time is occupied in the necessary clerical work involved, the service of notices and revisits to property, in respect of which notices for repairs to be carried out have been served.

Control of Civil Building—Building Licences

During the year under review 4 licences for new dwellings were granted, totalling £3,580 and 22 new houses were completed in this period.

Building licences for repairs, alterations, adaptations, etc., to property were issued as follows:—

Housing	423	£27,899
Other than housing	135	8,143
	558	£36,042
TOTAL		

Inspection of Dwelling Houses During the Year

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	449
	(b)	Number inspections made for the purpose	467
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-heading (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	301
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	319
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	54
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	152

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers	62
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

(a)	Proceedings under the Housing Act 1936	Nil
(b)	Proceedings under the Public Health Act 1936	Nil
(c)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which an undertaking not to use a dwelling for human habitation was accepted. (Housing Act 1936).	Nil

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC.) REGULATIONS, 1947.

The new legislation under the above title relating to ice cream, became operative on May 1st this year. Briefly, the regulations deal with the manufacture of a "complete cold mix", the preparation, heat-treatment and consequent cooling of all other ice cream, and the hygienic conditions of preparation, storage and distribution. The complete cold mix is manufactured into ice-cream by the addition of wholesome water to a product which has been made by evaporating a liquid mixture which has been submitted to heat treatment as prescribed in the regulations.

Before the regulations came into force a visit was paid to all premises registered under the Food, Drugs Act for the sale, manufacture and storage for sale of Ice Cream, and the occupiers acquainted with the new Regulations. The premises were inspected, and in a few cases they were found to be unsatisfactory, and work to these has been and is being carried out to bring them up to the standard laid down. Attention to personal cleanliness is a most important matter and strict attention to this is given and its needs stressed upon the handlers of the commodity. It is pleasing to report, however, that in no case have either dirty premises or dirty habits been found to exist.

The Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations are a most welcome addition to our legislation.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PART I OF THE ACT

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	21	21		
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	10	10		
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ‡ (excluding out - workers' premises)				
TOTAL	31	31		

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.I.)					
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)..					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) ..					
(a) insufficient	1			1	
(b) Unsuitable or defective..					
(c) Not separate for sexes..					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1			1	
TOTAL	2			2	

‡ i.e. **Electrical Stations** [Section 103 (1)], **Institutions** (Section 104) and sites of **Building Operations and Works of Engineering construction** (sections 107 and 108).

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

Nil.

Milk Supply

(a) Number of Producers of Milk	1374
(b) Number of Producers (included in (a)) of Accredited Milk	349
(c) Number of Producers (included in (a)) of Tuberculin Tested Milk	12
Supplementary Licences granted to sell Pasteurised Milk	1
Dealers' Licences granted to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk	—

Meat and Other Foods

Number of Slaughterhouses Licenced	—
Number of Knacker's Yards licenced	1
Number of men holding licence to slaughter	21

Weight of Foods Condemned

(a) Tinned Foods	8 lbs.
(b) Miscellaneous Foods	211 lbs.
	<hr/>
	219 lbs.

H. KELSO WATSON

Medical Officer of Health

F. HEMINGWAY

Sanitary Inspector

